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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,032	04/21/2004	David J. Marshall	06878.112.404	7449
32361	7590	02/26/2008		
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP MET LIFE BUILDING 200 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10166			EXAMINER SUBRAMANIAN, NARAYANSWAMY	
			ART UNIT 3691	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/26/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

SchindlerB@gtlaw.com

LucasCh@gtlaw.com

NYIPmail@gtlaw.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/829,032

Applicant(s)

MARSHALL, DAVID J.

Examiner

Narayanswamy Subramanian

Art Unit

3691

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Original claims 1-26 are pending in this application and are subject to election/restriction as discussed below.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-5 and 9-16, drawn to methods hedging a deferred compensation liability associated with a deferred compensation plan, comprising: arranging a first total return swap between a party sponsoring the deferred compensation plan and a counterparty; using the first total return swap to hedge the deferred compensation liability; and arranging a hedge between the counterparty and a second counterparty, wherein the hedge at least partially hedges the counterparty's liability under the first total return swap, classified in class 705, subclass 35. A utility of invention I is arranging a first total return swap between a party sponsoring the deferred compensation plan and a counterparty.

II. Claims 6-8 and 17-23, drawn to methods for hedging a deferred compensation liability associated with a deferred compensation plan, which deferred compensation plan permits a participant in the deferred compensation plan to select a notional investment allocation of deferred compensation attributable to the participant, comprising: obligating a counterparty to pay to a party sponsoring the deferred compensation plan a hedge payment, wherein the hedge payment results from a first total return swap and equals at least the value of the deferred compensation if it were invested as notionally selected by the plan participant; and arranging a hedge between the counterparty and a second counterparty, wherein the hedge at least partially hedges the counterparty's liability under the first total return swap, classified in class 705,

subclass 35. A utility of invention II is obligating a counterparty to pay to a party sponsoring the deferred compensation plan a hedge payment.

III. Claims 24-26, drawn to a method for hedging a deferred compensation liability associated with a deferred compensation plan, comprising: arranging a forward contract including a put and a call between a party sponsoring the deferred compensation plan and a counterparty; and using the forward contract to hedge the deferred compensation liability, classified in class 705, subclass 35. A utility of invention III is using the forward contract to hedge the deferred compensation liability.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

3. Inventions I and II are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. It is evident from the steps of the two inventions and their different utility that the inventions are different in scope and utility. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper, even though they are classified in the same class and subclass.

Inventions I and III are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. It is evident from the steps of the two inventions and their different utility that the inventions are different in scope and utility. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for

Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper, even though they are classified in the same class and subclass.

Inventions II and III are related as sub combinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The sub combinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. It is evident from the steps of the two inventions and their different utility that the inventions are different in scope and utility. See MPEP § 806.05(d). Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group II is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper, even though they are classified in the same class and subclass.

4. A telephone call was made to Mr. Barry J. Schindler on February 15, 2008 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.
5. Applicant is advised that reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143). Applicant is respectfully advised to cancel the non-elected claims in reply to this office action.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is (571) 272-6751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached at (571) 272-6771. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft to the Patent Office is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Narayanswamy Subramanian/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3691

February 19, 2008